

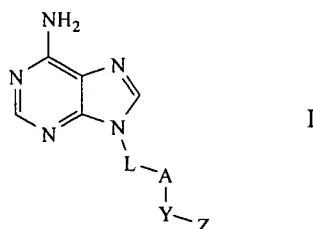
**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-23 (canceled).

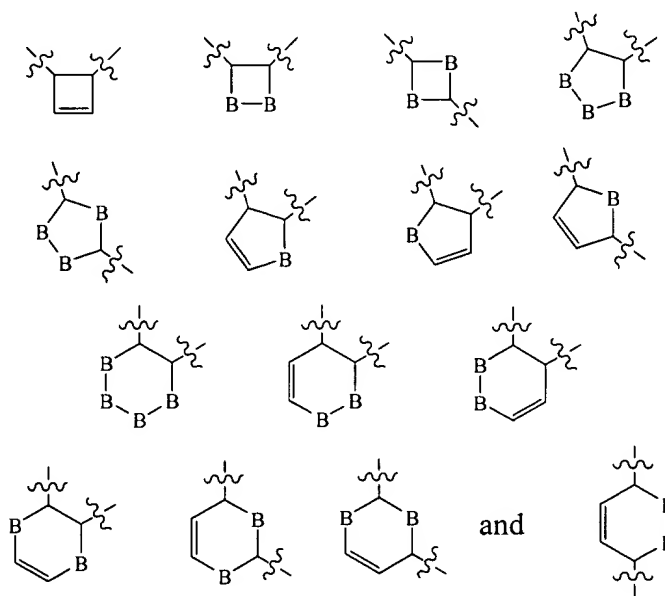
24. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein:

A is a member selected from the group consisting of:

benzene, thiophene, furan, pyrrole, indole,



wherein

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of  $-C(-R^1)(-R^2)-$ ,  $-O-$  and  $-N(-J-R^3)-$ , wherein not more than one B in any ring is either  $-O-$  or  $-N(-J-R^3)-$ ;

each m [[and n]] is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

each n is independently an integer from 1 to 4;

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mO-$  and  $-(CH_2)_m-N(-J^1)-R^4$ ;

Z is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NHOH$ ,  $-(CH_2)_nCOOH$ ,  $-(CH_2)_nCOOMe$  and  $-(CH_2)_nCOOEt$ ;

L is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mO-$  and  $-(CH_2)_m-N(-J^2)-R^5$ ;

J,  $J^1$  and  $J^2$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of  $C(=O)$  and a bond;

$R^1$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $-N(-J^3-R^6)(-J^4-R^7)$  and  $-O-J^5-R^8$ , wherein  $J^3$ ,  $J^4$  and  $J^5$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of  $-C(=O)-$  and a bond, wherein at least one of  $J^3$  and  $J^4$  is a bond;

$R^2$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $-N(-J^6-R^9)(-J^7-R^{10})$  and  $-O-J^8-R^{11}$ , wherein  $J^6$ ,  $J^7$  and  $J^8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $-C(=O)-$  and a bond, wherein at least one of  $J^6$  and  $J^7$  is a bond;

$R^3$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{12}$ ;

$R^4$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{13}$ ;

$R^5$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{14}$ ;

$R^6$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{15}$ ;

$R^7$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{16}$ ;

$R^8$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{17}$ ;

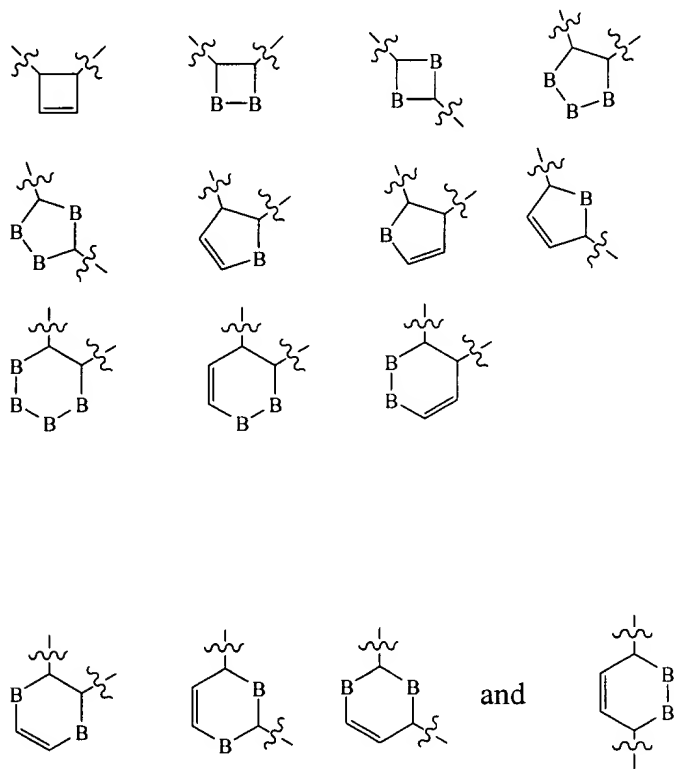
$R^9$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{18}$ ;

$R^{10}$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{19}$ ;

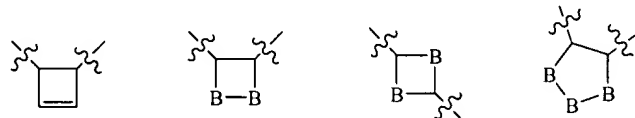
$R^{11}$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1-C_8$  alkyl,  $CF_3$  and  $O-R^{20}$ ;

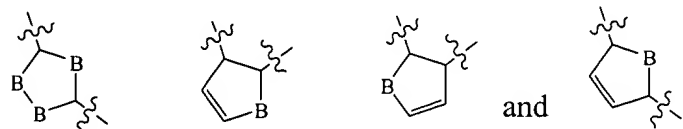
$R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{17}$ ,  $R^{18}$ ,  $R^{19}$  and  $R^{20}$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, cycloalkyl and benzyl; and all pharmaceutically acceptable stereoisomers, salts, and prodrugs thereof.

**25.** (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24** wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



**26.** (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24** wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:





Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ;

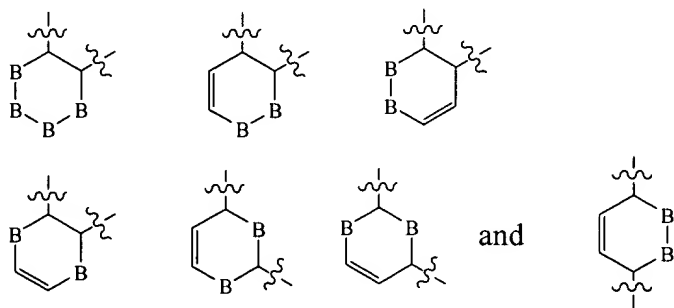
L is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ; and

$R^1$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^5-R^8$ ; and

$R^2$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^8-R^{11}$ ;

and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

**27.** (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24**, wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ;

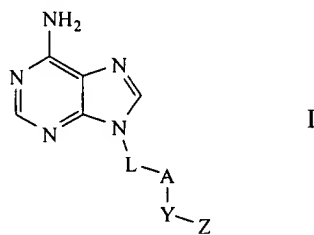
L is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ; and

$R^1$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^5-R^8$ ; and

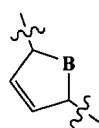
$R^2$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^8-R^{11}$ ;

and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

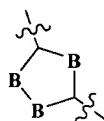
**28.** (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (I):



~~The compound according to claim 24~~ wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



and



wherein

each B is CH<sub>2</sub>;

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>- and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>O-;

Z is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-C(=O)-NHOH;

L is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-;

each m and n is independently an integer from 0 to 4; and

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;

and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

**29.** (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 24, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**30.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**31.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **26**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**32.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **27**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**33.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**34-41.** (Canceled)

**42.** (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **29** to a patient in need thereof.

**43.** (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **30** to a patient in need thereof.

**44.** (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **31** to a patient in need thereof.

**45.** (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **32** to a patient in need thereof.

Appln. No. 09/989,348

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated September 21, 2004

Office Action Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated September 15, 2004

46. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33 to a patient in need thereof.